

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 EA-07 /074 W
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R 070900Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9953

INFO: RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 1609

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CZ PINT PINR

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER STROUGAL - GOING INTO XV PARTY CONGRESS

1. FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH, UNTIL APRIL 2/3, CZECHOSLOVAK PRIME MINISTER STROUGAL HAD BEEN OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. SOME DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS DEDUCED FROM THIS THAT STROUGAL WAS IN POLITICAL TROUBLE (WE DO NOT DISCOUNT ANY POSSIBILITY TO INCLUDE THAT HE WAS MERELY VACATIONING). STROUGAL'S REAPPEARANCE IN APRIL 3 RUDE PRAVO, HOWEVER, WAS NOT ENTIRELY REASSURING. ON ONE HAND HIS NAME WAS GIVEN AS CO-SIGNER, WITH HUSAK, OF CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM TO HUNGARIANS ON 31/ST ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION; BUT ON THE OTHER, HIS NAME WAS NOT MENTIONED IN SECOND ARTICLE CARRYING LIST OF CZECHOSLOVAK DIGNITARIES WHO ATTENDED APRIL 2 HUNGARIAN RECEPTION. ACCORDING TO DUTCH AMBASSADOR (WHO GOT IT FROM THE HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR), STROUGAL WAS DEFINITELY AT RECEPTION.

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2. NEVERTHELESS, IN APRIL 7 RUDE PRAVO, BRIEF PAGE-ONE

ARTICLE REPORTS THAT STROUGAL RECEIVED DAY BEFORE NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR.

3. COMMENT: SO FAR IN PRE-CONGRESS PERIOD STROUGAL HAS NOT BEEN AMONG THOSE LIKE INDRA, KEMPNY, HUSAK AND OTHERS WHO, EACH IN HIS OWN WAY (NOTE FOR EXAMPLE INDRA'S TVORBA ARTICLE AND HUSAK'S ABSENCE FROM SLOVAK CONGRESS), APPEAR TO BE JOCKEYING FOR BETTER POSITION. INDEED, THE VIEW OF MOST OBSERVERS IS THAT STROUGAL, WHILE STABLE, IS NEITHER POLITICALLY DYNAMIC NOR A THREAT TO ANYONE. CERTAINLY HE IS NOT CONSIDERED TO HAVE THE POTENTIAL INCREASINGLY ASCRIBED THESE DAYS TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK OR TO KSC PRESIDUM MEMBER KEMPNY, WHO MADE BIG SPLASH AT SLOVAK CONGRESS (SEE PRAGUE 885). ONE RUMOR NOW CIRCULATING, WITHOUT FOUNDATION AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, IS THAT STROUGAL MAY BECOME CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW.
FRISBIE

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